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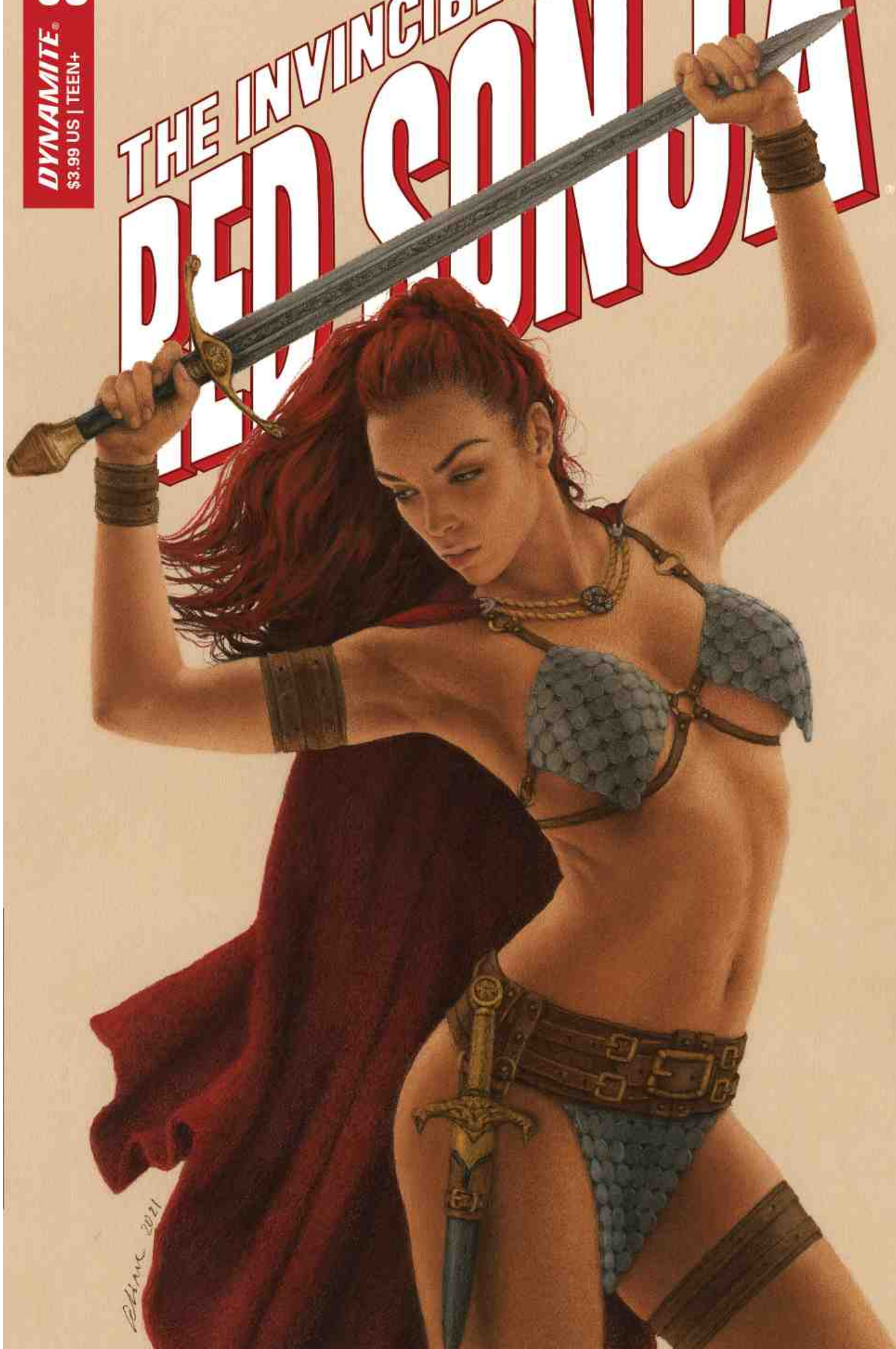


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THE INVINCIBLE
RED SONJA[®]



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& AMANDA CONNER**
WRITERS

MORITAT
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SAL MONOCO
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**SPECIAL THANKS TO
CASEY SILVER**

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*I NOW FIND MYSELF
HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH THE
GHASTLY PROGENY OF
CAPELLIA'S EAR-SPLITTING,
SMUT-MUZZLED RULER.*

KILL THE LOUSE-LOINED HARLOT, MY BOY!

PEEL THE
MILT-CRUSTED FLESH
FROM HER BONES AND
DEVOUR HER!

RECENT MISFORTUNES
HAVE FORCED THE PRINCESS
INTO A HASTY MATURITY, BUT
HAVE GAINED ME A FEW
STEADFAST COMRADES...
AND DARE I SAY...

...FRIENDS?

**SONJA!
BE WARY!**

HOW
CAN SHE
EVER DEFEAT
THAT BEAST
ALONE?

I HAVE
FAITH IN HER,
MY PRINCE.

ALAS, MY
STEADFAST
OMRADES...

...MY FRIENDS...

...ARE CAPTIVE
AND FETTERED...

...AND I MUST FACE THIS
ABOMINATION ON MY OWN.

BY ERLIK'S
SPINY YELLOW
NETHERS...

...WHAT **DEMON**
OF THE **SEVEN HELLS**
DID YOUR MOTHER BED
DOWN WITH TO **BIRTH**
SUCH AS **YOU?!**

MY,
AREN'T YOU
AN *UGLY*
ONE.

AND YOUR
STENCH MATCHES
THAT OF YOUR
VISAGE!

[illegible]



YOU
PACK QUITE
A **STOUSH**,
BRUTE...

...BUT MY
PRIDE IS MORE
SORE THAN MY
JAW.



YOU'LL SEE THAT
I **GIVE** AS GOOD
AS I **GET**.



K-SSHHNNK

**TARIM AND
ERLIK, BEAST!**
YOUR HIDE IS LIKE
STONE!



HA. I SEE YOU
HAVE YOUR
**OWN NATURAL
ARMOR.**

UHHHHHHH...



AND YOU'LL
SEE **I** HAVE A NATURAL
TASTE FOR **FIGHTING
DIRTY.**



THWAPP



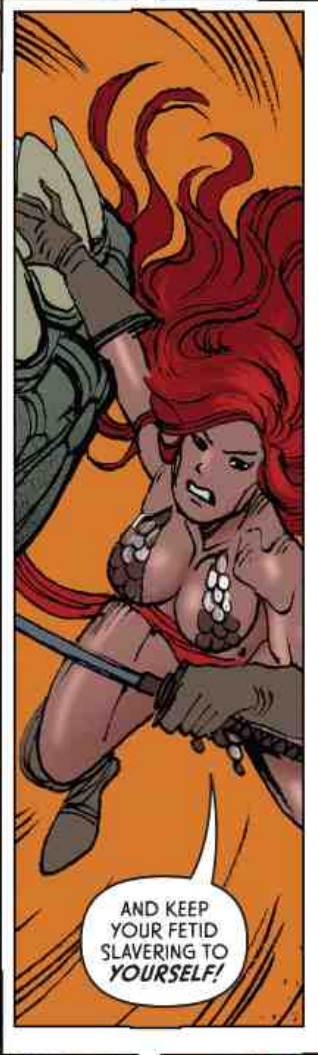
OOOOOFFF!







OFF
OF ME WITH
YOUR ROTTED
TEETH!



AND KEEP
YOUR FETID
SLAVERING TO
YOURSELF!



GGRRRAAAAAHH!



MY
BABY!

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!

I DID AS PROMISED.

I MADE YOU TO WATCH YOUR WHELP DIE.



...AS ALSO PROMISED...

AND...

...I WILL SEPARATE THAT LOATHSOME HEAD OF YOURS...

...FROM YOUR BODY...

...AND SEND YOU BACK TO THE DARK GOD'S RECTUM FROM WHENCE YOU SPAT...

YOU PIG SUCKLING WHORE!

THWAAAASSSHH YOOO!!!



IS THIS *TRUE*?
ACCORDING TO LAW,
I AM NOW *RULER* OF
THE CITY OF
CAPELLIA?

YAE,
CORRECT.

I FIND IT
HARD TO BELIEVE
THAT IN THE THOUSAND
YEARS TEZZAH WAS ALIVE,
NO ONE TRIED TO *KILL*
HER TO WIN THE
THRONE.

SOME *DID*
TRY. IN TIME, THEY
WERE MADE FOOD
BY HER SON. MUCH
APPETITE,
HAD HE.

NOW, AS
RULER OF
CAPELLIA, ALL
YOU DESIRE IS
YOURS.

IT'S
ALL VERY
TEMPTING,
BUT...

WITH *YOU*
TO BE LEADER,
CAPELLIA WILL
FARE MUCH
MORE WITH
GREAT
FAVOR.

DISMAL, WAS
THE RULE OF TEZZAH.
WORSE WOULD IT BE,
WITH RAGE FOR HER
DEAD SPAWN.

NO
MATTER,
NOW.

SHE DID NOT
MISS HIM FOR *LONG*,
AS MY SWIFT SWORD
SENT THEM *BOTH* TO
THE SAME HELL.

NOW *YOU*
COMMAND ARMIES.
CONQUER
KINGDOMS.

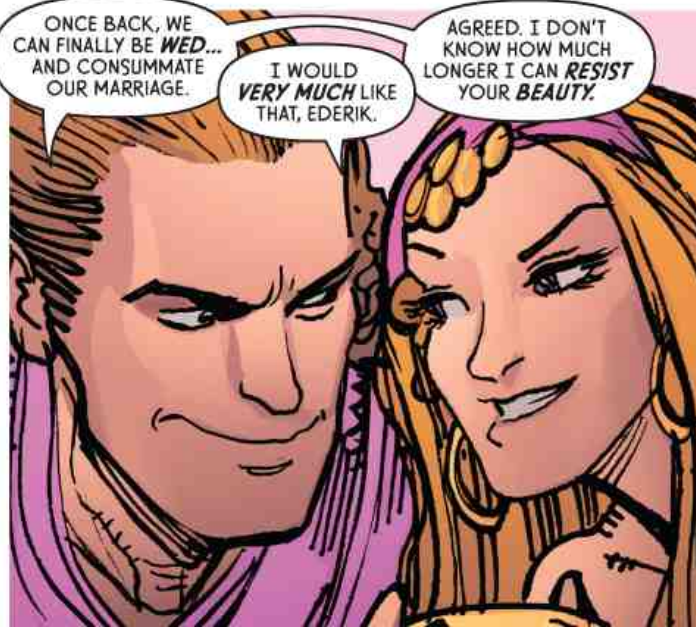
ONE WORD,
YOUR WARRIORS
FIGHT TO THE
DEATH.

I THINK
NOT...

I LIKE TO
FIGHT MY *OWN*
BATTLES.

YOU *WILL*. AS
RULER, YOU MEET
MANY CHALLENGERS
FOR THE COURT.

MY *WITS* AND
MY *SWORD HAND* ARE
ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY
I DESIRE.



SIXTEEN FLASKS OF WINE LATER...

~HIC~

I EVER TELL
YOU...

IN THE PAST
HOUR, YOU HAVE TOLD
MANY THINGS WE BOTH
SHALL REGRET, SO LET'S
BE OFF TO SLEEP
WITH YOU.

TUMA,
YOU HAVE
BEAUTIFUL
EYES...

~HIC~



AS DO
YOU.

~HIC~

WHAT DO
YOU **DESIRE** OF
LIFE, NOW THAT
YOU ARE
FREE?

FREEDOM
IS MANY THINGS
TO MANY
PEOPLE.

SINCE
BIRTH, I'VE
BEEN RIDICULED...
SHUNNED FOR MY
APPEARANCE. MY
WINGS--



--ARE **BEAUTIFUL**,
AND CAN TAKE YOU
ANYWHERE.

~HIC~

SO, WHERE IS
IT YOU'D LIKE TO
BE? WHAT IS IT
YOU'D LIKE TO
DO?

I'D LIKE
TO PUT YOU
TO BED.

BED...?
THAT IS NO
BED! THAT IS
A DULCET CLOUD
SWATHED IN ~HIC~
WHISPERS OF
SILK!

NEVERTHELESS,
IN YOU GO.



I WOULD
LIKE TO DO **GOOD**.
MAKE A **DIFFERENCE** IN
THIS WORLD. SHOW
PEOPLE THAT THEY CAN BE
BETTER AND TREAT EACH
OTHER **EQUALLY**.
FAIRLY.

AH, ONLY
WORDS, TILL
I DO SOMETHING
ABOUT IT.

YOU ARE
A **DREAMER**
AND ~HIC~
A **POET.**

I HAVE **SEEN** WHAT POWER DOES TO PEOPLE.
I WAS A **BOUND** BY IT, AND WATCHED THOSE
I ADMIRER **SUCCUMB** TO IT. I CANNOT
ABIDE A WORLD WHERE THAT IS
ALL THERE IS.

PLEASE, SONJA, CLOSE
YOUR EYES AND REST. WE'LL
SPEAK IN THE MORNING.



KISS ME,
AND ONLY
THEN SHALL
I SLEEP.



BEDS OF THE SOFTEST EIDERDOWN.
SILKEN ROBES. RARE PERFUMES ONE COULD
BATHE IN FOR THE REST OF THEIR DAYS.

ALL THE FOOD ANYONE COULD FEAST
ON, AND MORE. A NEVER-ENDING FLOW
OF THE FINEST OF WINES.

A THOUSAND-SCORE OF
SUBJECTS TO DO MY
EVERY BIDDING.

COULD I BE
RULER OF CAPELLIA?

OR WOULD I SOON BEGIN
KILLING COURTIER, IF ONLY TO
EASE THE CRUSHING BOREDOM?

SONJA.



TUMA!
YOU BRING
FOOD.

MORE
FOOD.

PREPARED
FOR US **BOTH**
TO ENJOY.



AND **HAIR** OF
THE **HOUD** TO
EASE LAST NIGHT'S
INDULGENCES.

HMM...
MUCH OF
THAT IS A BLUR,
BUT I DID NOT
FORGET I HAVE A
DECISION TO
MAKE.

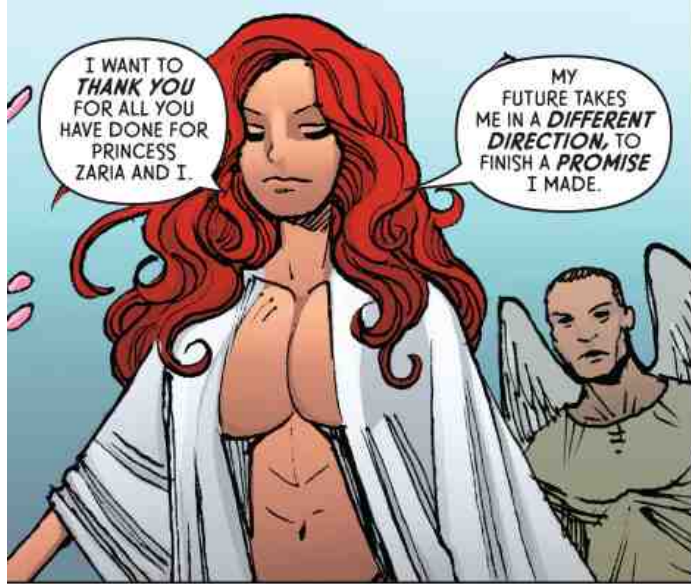
ROK AND
KAI AWAIT YOUR
ANSWER.



LAST NIGHT,
ARE THE THINGS
YOU SPOKE OF
TRUE?

YOU **REMEMBER**
THAT? I'M SORRY IF
MY DISCOURSE WAS
TEDIOUS.

ANYTHING
BUT. IT VOCALIZED
WHAT I **BELIEVED** OF
YOU FROM THE
BEGINNING.



I WANT TO
THANK YOU
FOR ALL YOU
HAVE DONE FOR
PRINCESS
ZARIA AND I.

MY
FUTURE TAKES
ME IN A **DIFFERENT**
DIRECTION. TO
FINISH A **PROMISE**
I MADE.



I WISH TO
GRANT YOU A **GIFT**...
TO GIVE YOU THE
FUTURE YOU
SEEK.

I WAS
BESTOWED THIS
KINGDOM, BUT CAN
THINK OF NO BETTER
FATE FOR IT THAN TO
ENTRUST IT TO ONE
AS **GRACIOUS, WISE,**
AND **PRINCIPLED**
AS YOU.



WHAT?



I WANT TO
KNOW THAT SOMEDAY
I WILL **RETURN**...AND SEE YOUR
INFLUENCE, YOUR VALUES, YOUR
BENEVOLENCE **REFLECTED**
IN THE WAYS OF THIS
KINGDOM.



LOOK AT ME.
HOW WILL THEY
ACCEPT ME AS THEIR
LEADER?



HOW
COULD THEY
NOT?

DID YOU **SEE**
THE BRUTAL FIENDS
THAT HELD CAPELLIA
IN THEIR GRIP FOR A
MILLENNIA?



TUMA, YOUR
REIGN WILL BE AS
A WARM SPRING DAY
AFTER AWAKENING
FROM A LONG
WINTER'S WORTH OF
NIGHTMARES.

AND **LOOK** AT
YOU...YOU ALREADY
RESEMBLE HALF THE
SCULPTURES LINING
THE HALLS OF THIS
KINGDOM.





THE NEXT DAY I PRESENT MY
DECISION TO THE HIGH COURT,
AND IT IS ACCEPTED.

NAY,
EMBRACED.

TUMA WILL NOW RULE THE
KINGDOM OF CAPELLIA.

I AM PLEASED THIS WENT SO
SMOOTHLY....THOUGH I DARE
NOT TEMPT FATE THINKING
THIS WAY TOO MUCH.

LONG
LIVE KING
TUMA...
OOORRAAY!!



SONJA,
I *SPEAK* WITH
YOU?

FOLLOW
ME.

I NEED TO
SPEAK TO *YOU*,
AS WELL.



ROK, I NEED
A *STURDY SHIP* AND
CREW TO CROSS THE
SEA TO ZARIA'S
KINGDOM.

A FINE VESSEL
IS AT PORT. WE CAN
READY IT FOR YOU
BY MORN.

PERFECT.
SO, WHAT IS IT
YOU NEED
FROM *ME*?

NOT NEED. OUR
FINEST ARMORER
MAKES FOR YOU
A *GIFT*.



FIN IS
MASTER AT
HIS CRAFT.

I MADE TO
WATCH YOU AT
BATTLE. EYED YOUR
FORM. SENSED
YOUR NEEDS.

IT WOULD
MAKE *HONOR*
FOR ME TO SEE
YOU WEAR
THIS.



HA! *WELL*
THEN, NO BETTER
TIME THAN *NOW*.



THIS...
THIS IS
WORTHY
OF A SEA
VOYAGE!

THIS BLADE IS
MATE TO A PRECIOUS
STONE, DO YOU SEE?
IT HAS DWELLED IN THE
KINGDOM OF CAPELLIA
FOR MANY GENERATIONS.
IT MAKES *LIKING* FOR
THE TASTE OF
BLOOD.



A THIRSTY
BLADE, EH? WELL,
IN MY HANDS, IT
WILL BE QUITE
SLAKED.

FOR
YOU.

MY
THANKS
TO YOU.

THE NEXT MORNING...

KING TUMA,
WHEN YOU SETTLE INTO
YOUR POSITION, LET US
MEET AGAIN UNDER
OFFICIAL TERMS.



WE SHALL SEE HOW TO
HELP EACH OTHER'S
KINGDOMS.

I LOOK
FORWARD TO
THAT DAY, MY
PRINCESS.



YOU WILL **ALWAYS**
HAVE A SECOND HOME
HERE IN CAPELLIA.

THANK YOU.
TAKE **GOOD
CARE**, MY
FRIEND.



TUMA, I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO THANK YOU FOR
ALL YOU HAVE **DONE**.

YOURS AND PRINCESS
ZARIA'S **HAPPINESS** AND A
SECURE FUTURE IS A GREAT
REWARD IN **ITSELF**.

SAFE
VOYAGE,
EDERIK.



EVERYONE
ABOARD!

**LET US BE
AWAY!**





FAREWELL,
COMRADES.



SONJA...
NOT MUCH FOR
GOODBYES,
ARE YOU?

I HAVE MADE
MY **PEACE** WITH
THIS PLACE.

I MEANT
TUMA.



WITH **HIM**
AS WELL,
ZARIA.



**ALL
HANDS!** STOW THE
REST OF THOSE
GOODS BELOW
DECK!

SAILS FULL
MAST!

WE'VE
A LONG VOYAGE
AHEAD OF US!

...WAS THERE,
CALLED TO THE FIGHT BY
KING VARICK, AGAINST
THE UNSTOPPABLE ARMY
OF **GRAVEN SUL**.

WE WERE A SCANT
FEW AGAINST **LEGIONS**
OF BLOODTHIRSTY KILLERS,
SO IT WAS A BATTLE WHERE
BRAINS HAD TO WIN THE
DAY OVER **BRAWN**.

I AM **MIKAL**.
MY ENTIRE VILLAGE
ON THE BORDER OF
NEMEDIA AND BRYTHUNIA
WAS **DESTROYED** BY THAT
VERY ARMY. THEY KILLED
EVERYONE... NO SURVIVORS.
MY KIN AMONGST
THEM.

WELL, MY FRIEND,
LET US RAISE OUR CUPS
TO THE **MEMORY** OF THEM,
AND **ALL** WHO PERISHED
BY THEIR HAND.

AND
MAY GRAVEN SUL
AND HIS PARASITES
CONTINUE TO **ROT**
IN **HELL** AS WE

DRINK
TO THEIR
**ETERNAL
DAMNATION!**

SHE **IS**
SOMETHING
ELSE, IS SHE
NOT?

SHE
DESERVES A
PLACE IN OUR
FUTURE **REALM**,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

SHE JUST DENIED RULING A **KINGDOM**.
WHY WOULD SHE THINK TO SERVE
UNDER US IN BELANJ?

SONJA DESERVES
WHAT WAS **PROMISED** TO HER, AND
SO MUCH **MORE**.

WHEN WE ARE HOME,
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING **SPECIAL**,
BEYOND JUST SHOWERING HER WITH
TREASURE.

SOMETHING
GRAND. SOMETHING
SPECTACULAR.

THAT WOULD
BE **GOOD** OF YOU,
MY QUEEN.



TWO WEEKS HENCE...

THERE IT IS!
AHEAD!

THE KINGDOM
LIES BETWEEN THOSE
TWO MOUNTAINS, IN
THE VALLEY.

OH, SONJA,
I AM **SO** EXCITED FOR
YOU TO MEET MY MOTHER
AND FATHER, AND THE **REST**
OF MY FAMILY.

AND
YOU, **TOO**,
EDERIK!

WAIT TILL YOU SEE
THE **CASTLE**. THE DESIGN
IS UNLIKE **ANYTHING** YOU
HAVE **EVER KNOWN**.

IS THAT
SO?

INDEED.

BELANJ IS
KNOWN FOR
ITS **BRILLIANT**
ARCHITECTS.

HMM. THAT'S
STRANGE.



THE
LOOKOUTS...
ABOVE US...

...NO ONE
IS AT THEIR
POSTS.

I SMELL
SMOKE.

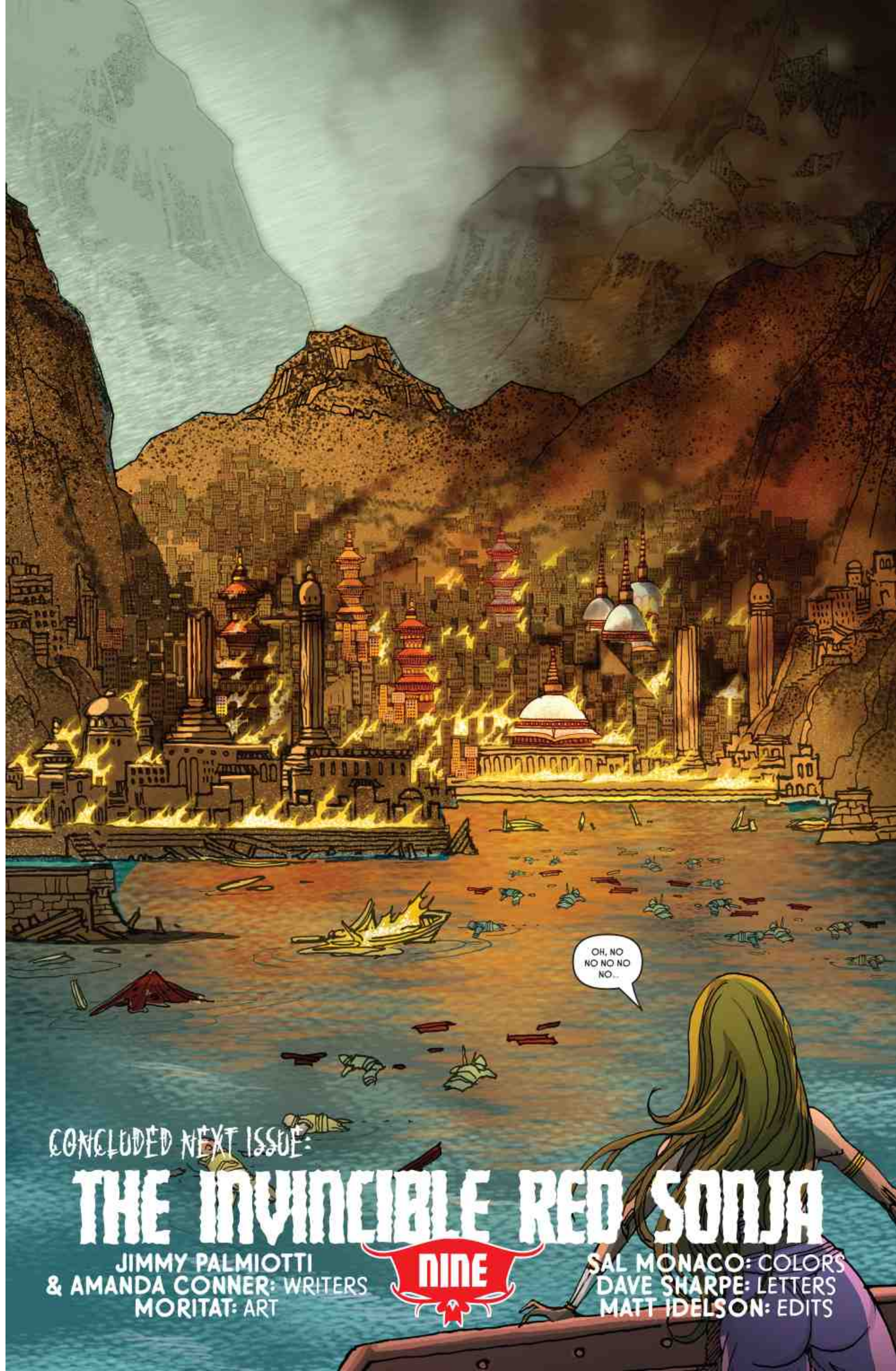
DAMN!
CREW!

TURN THIS SHIP
AROUND!

**RIGHT
NOW!**



OH
NO...



OH, NO
NO NO NO
NO...

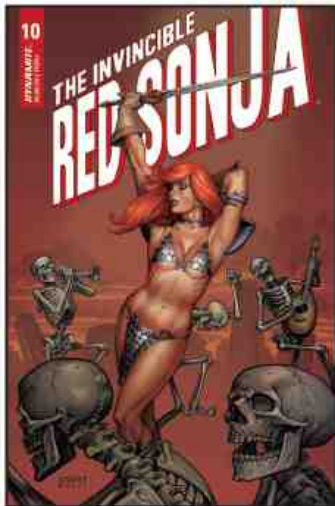
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE:

THE INVINCIBLE RED SONJA

JIMMY PALMIOTTI
& AMANDA CONNER: WRITERS
MORITAT: ART

nine

SAL MONACO: COLORS
DAVE SHARPE: LETTERS
MATT IDELSON: EDITS



NEXT ISSUE

The final chapter of this epic first saga!

The heroes return after their long journey at sea, but all is not well as Sonja has a new enemy to defeat in ultimate battle for the fate of Princess Zaria's kingdom.

COMICS VIRTUOSO CHRISTOPHER PRIEST TAKES READERS BACK TO VAMPIRELLA'S BEGINNINGS

We wager most any Vampirella fan is going to be all over this series based on the subtitle, but can you clarify the premise here? We hear this is not just the obvious label, but it also follows on what you've been building in your Vampirella saga to date.

Forrest J Ackerman, assisted by many other great writers at Warren Publishing and Harris Publications, created a rich character with a great many unexplored implications about her background and origins. To the best of my knowledge, ours was the first Vampirella series to explore Vampi's early days on Earth (in our "Interstellar" prologue, Vampirella #17), where we find her wandering alone the streets of a very dangerous 1970's New York City, with no home, no money, and unable to speak the language. Vampirella: Year One will begin to explore the many untold tales available to us both on Drakulon and after her journey to Earth. There's an enormous amount of unexplored territory, and I wish we had more issues to develop this!

The "Year One" moniker is one of the classic hallmarks of superhero comic books, as well as one you've dabbled in yourself in the past, explicitly or not, in titles like Green Lantern: Emerald Dawn and the Ray. What drew you to dig deeper into the Daughter of Drakulon's origins?

Well, last year artist Ergün Gündüz and I produced a story we called "Interstellar," which featured Vampirella's return to her home world of Drakulon. I was so impressed by Ergün's imagination, unchained from our "real" world take on the character, that I immediately regretted not having explored this direction, with all of its the "Fifth-Element-meets-Jean 'Moebius'-Giraud" accretions, sooner.

"How the hero(ine) came to be" is the classic tale, a narrative few franchises can escape. If you notice, most superhero film franchises do an amazing job telling that story, only to stumble in their sophomore outing which omits the origin narrative. The second story is much harder to tell.

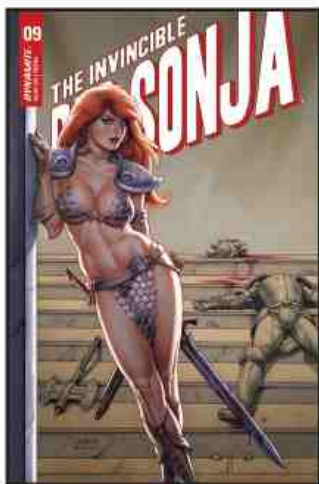
The first stab at the origin was in Vampi's very first appearance by Ackerman and artist Tom Sutton, but it amounted to barely a handful of pages. It got overhauled a bit in the 1972 annual and went through some major switcheroos in the Harris era. With more space to explore some of those early elements, what are you looking to particularly focus on or any wrinkles you're adding?

The neat thing about most modern takes on superheroes in theatrical and streaming releases is how they trade on nuance, shining a light on the smaller and often overlooked things and the logistics of how these fantastical characters might function in our "real" world. I have always approached the comics medium with respect and with an eye toward realism, frequently asking myself, "What would this series be like if it were streaming on Netflix?" Our readers and the larger mass market audience is a lot more sophisticated than it was in the 80's, by which I don't necessarily mean older (although that's true as well), but that readers want more and better out of stories these days and also seem willing to invest themselves a bit more in parsing the denser and more complex turns of, for example, the BBC's Sherlock or Marvel Studios' Avengers Endgame.

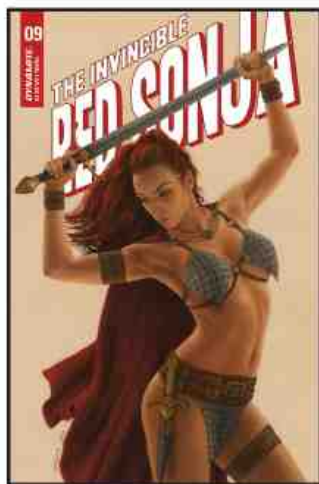
Vampirella's classic origin tale makes fairly little sense and has Vampi murdering most of a human flight crew and then piloting an Earth spaceship across the galaxy. Neither action could fly in today's publishing environment (for one thing, it's 50 years later and Earth still does not have a spaceship capable of interplanetary, let alone interstellar travel), so we had to reimagine how this character and her legacy might best function for today's audiences.



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art by AMANDA CONNER
colors by PAUL MOUNTS



Cover B
art by JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER



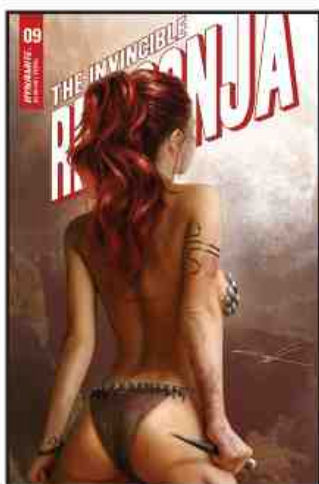
Cover C
art by CELINA



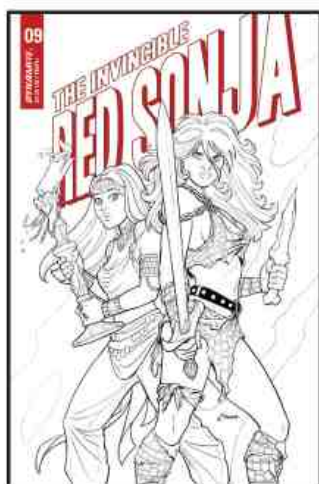
Cover D
art by FRANK CHO



Cover E
cosplay photo
model RACHEL HOLLON
instagram@facesbyrachie
photographer
DAVID TURNER
instagram@dead_shot_photo



Cover F
10 copy incentive cover
art by CARLA COHEN



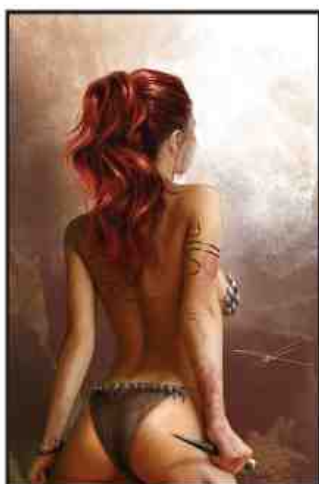
Cover G
15 copy incentive cover
line art by AMANDA CONNER



Cover H
20 copy incentive cover
virgin cosplay photo



Cover I
25 copy incentive cover
line art by JOSEPH MICHAEL LINSNER



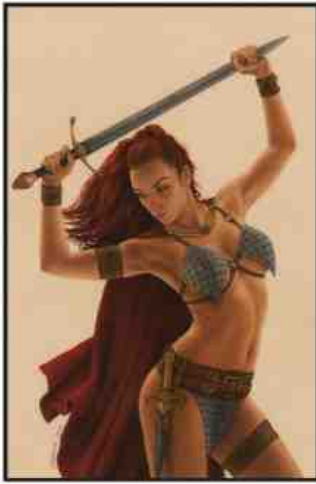
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Cover L
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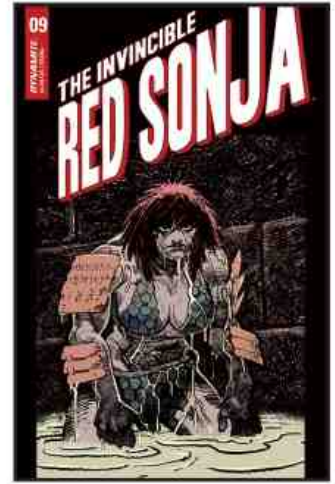
Cover M
limited edition cover
virgin art by
CELINA



Cover N
bonus foc
TMNT homage
art by
KEN HAESER



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ELIAS CHATZOUDIS



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MEGHAN HETRICK



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